DEER HERD UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN
Deer Herd Unit #22
(Beaver)
April 2006

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Iron, Garfield, Piute, Beaver and Millard counties - Boundary begins at SR-130 and I-15; north on SR-130 to SR-21; north on SR-21 to SR-257; north on SR-257 to the Black Rock road; east on the Black Rock road to I-15; south on I-15 to I-70; east on I-70 to US-89; south on US-89 to SR-20; west on SR-20 to I-15; south on I-15 to SR-130.

LAND OWNERSHIP

RANGE AREA AND APPROXIMATE OWNERSHIP

	Yearlong range		Summer Range		Winter Range	
Ownership	Area (acres)	%	Area (acres)	%	Area (acres)	%
Forest Service	0	??	213388	70%	83337	14%
Bureau of Land Management	0	??	65991	22%	396598	68%
Utah State Institutional Trust Lands	0	??	7386	2%	44367	8%
Native American Trust Lands	0	??	0	0%	205	0%
Private	0	??	18436	6%	53769	9%
Department of Defense	0	??	0	0%	0	0%
USFWS Refuge	0	??	0	0%	0	0%
National Parks	0	??	0	0%	0	0%
Utah State Parks	0	??	0	0%	0	0%
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	0	??	0	0%	2288	0%
TOTAL	0	??	305201	100%	580564	100%

UNIT MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage for a population of healthy animals capable of providing a broad range of recreational opportunities, including hunting and viewing. Balance deer herd impacts with human needs, such as private property rights, agricultural crops and local economies. Maintain the population at a level that is within the long-term capability of the available habitat to support.

POPULATION MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

< Target Winter Herd Size - Achieve a target population size of 11,000 wintering deer (modeled number). This population objective remains for both the short-term (5-year life of this plan) and long term, barring significant changes in range conditions.

Unit 22

2003 Objective:	11,000
2006-2011 Objective:	11,000
Change since 2003:	0

< Herd Composition – Maintain a region-wide three-year average post-season buck to doe ratio ranging from15 to 20 bucks per 100 does.

POPULATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Monitoring

< Population Size - Utilizing harvest data, postseason and spring classifications and mortality estimates, a computer model has been developed to estimate winter population size.

< Buck Age Structure - Monitor age class structure of the buck population through the use of checking stations, postseason classification, uniform harvest surveys and field bag checks.

< Harvest - The primary means of monitoring harvest will be through the statewide uniform harvest survey. Achieve the target population size by use of antlerless harvest using a variety of harvest methods and seasons. The winter population should result in an expected annual buck harvest of 1500 when normal conditions occur, but recognize that buck harvest will be above or below what is expected due to climatic and productivity variables. Buck harvest strategies will be developed through the RAC and Wildlife Board process to achieve management objectives for buck: doe ratios.

Limiting Factors (May prevent achieving management objectives)

< Crop Depredation - Take all steps necessary to minimize depredation as prescribed by state law and DWR policy. Closely monitor Sulfurdale, Wildcat, North and South Creek on the West and Marysvale Ten-Mile on the east.

< Habitat - (winter/summer range conditions) Closely monitor winter ranges on the southern part of the unit where overuse currently has been documented. No increase in deer numbers is possible in this area unless habitat projects increase carrying capacity. Maintain or improve fawning habitat and summer waters west of I-15. Excessive habitat utilization will be addressed.

< Predation - Refer to DWR predator management policy.

- Assess need for control by species, geographic area and season of year.

- Seek assistance from Wildlife Services when deer populations are depressed and where there is a reasonable chance of gaining some relief through a predator control effort. Concentrate WS control efforts during and immediately prior to the fawning period.

- Recommend cougar harvest to benefit deer while maintaining the cougar as a valued

resource in its own right.

< Highway Mortality - Cooperate with the Utah Department of Transportation in construction of highway fences, passage structures and warning signs, etc.

< Illegal Harvest - Should illegal kill become an identified and significant source of mortality attempt to develop specific preventive measures within the context of an action plan developed in cooperation with the Law Enforcement Section.

< Interspecific competition - No limitation generated by elk/deer interactions has been documented.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

< Maintain and/or enhance forage production through direct range improvements throughout the unit on winter range to achieve population management objectives. Work with Federal agencies to improve critical winter ranges adjacent to the crop depredation areas identified above.

< Work closely with the BLM on maintaining and improving critical winter range conditions south of Beaver and east of I-15.

< Improve riparian areas in fawning habitat west of I-15 to furnish water, cover, and late to mid summer succulent forage.

< Work with private and federal agencies to maintain and protect critical and existing winter range from future losses.

< Provide improved habitat security and escapement opportunities for deer.

Condition of deer winter range on Unit 22, as indicated by DWR range trend surveys.

Year	Mean DCI score for Unit	Classification	Unit-specific DCI score range: Poor	Unit-specific DCI score range: Fair	Unit-specific DCI score range: Good
2003	37	FAIR	18-32	33-50	51-69

HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

< Habitat - Assist BLM in developing a plan for improving winter ranges south of Beaver. Identify methods to reduce pinyon-juniper encroachment. Continue assisting BLM with planned habitat projects south of Fremont Canyon.

< Work closely with BLM and private landowners to manage and improve riparian habitat conditions west of I-15.

Cooperate with BLM to enhance winter range west of I-15.

< Monitoring - Herd composition and population will be monitored through post season classification, spring classification, annual spring range rides, hunter check stations, harvest surveys, and computer modeling. Continue to monitor the permanent range trend studies located throughout the seasonal ranges.

< Harvest - Antlerless harvest will be identified in amounts adequate to prevent crop damage, protect habitat and maintain buck objectives.

< Depredation - Damage to crops will be minimized by herding, landowner permits and depredation hunting. Antlerless permits will be made available to public in areas identified.

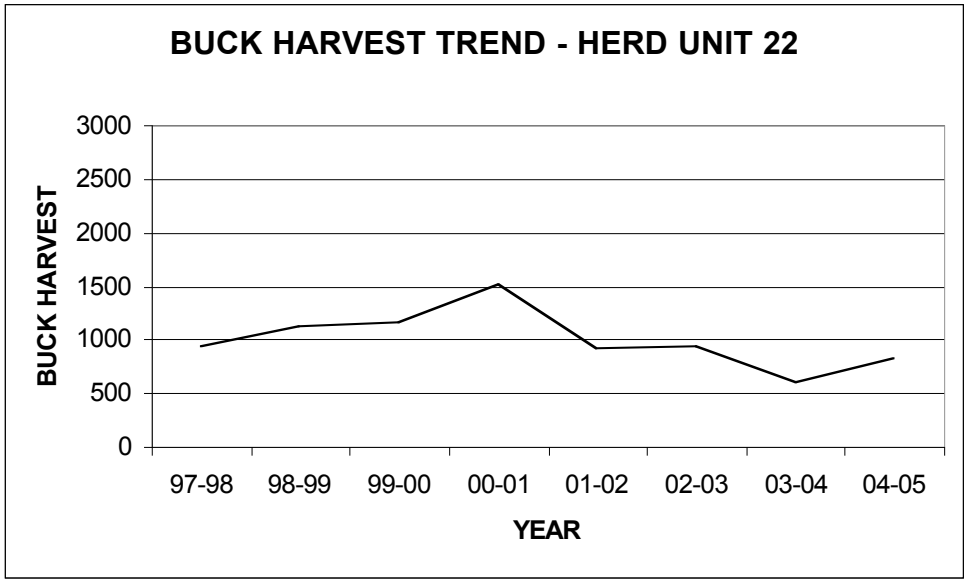
PERMANENT RANGE TREND SUMMARIES

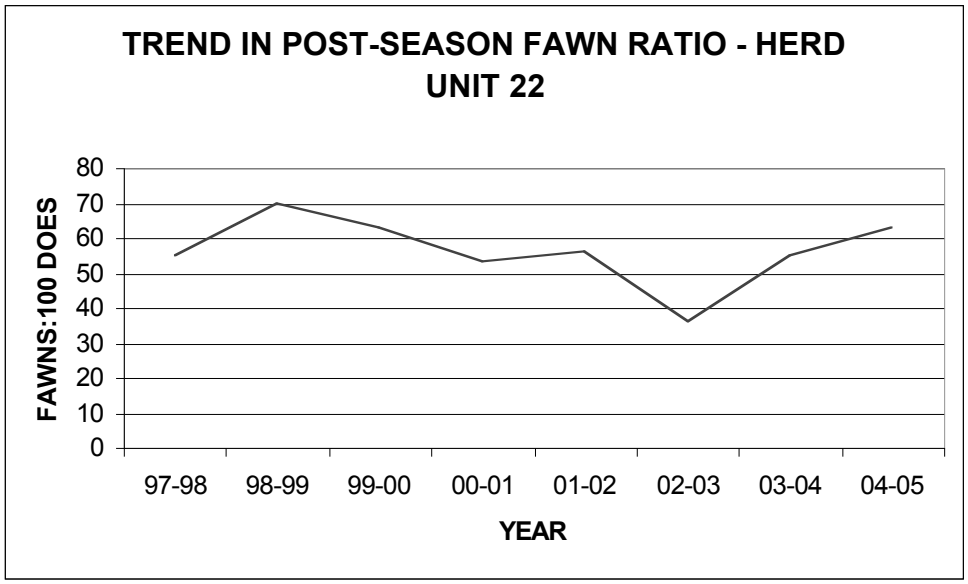
Fourteen (14) range trend study sites were initially established on the Beaver in 1985. Additional sites were added in South Creek and Fremont Wash in the late 1990s. All sites were read in 2003. Only two sites had improving trends over the entire unit and these were due to fire rehabilitation efforts. For all other sites trends for soil, herbaceous, and browse components were split evenly between stable and decreasing classifications.

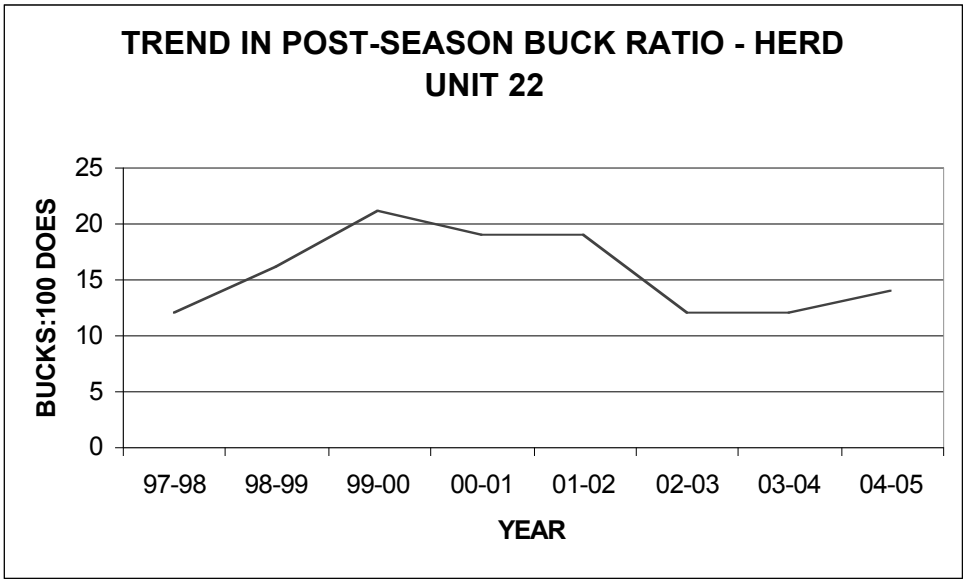
Duration of Plan

This unit management plan was approved by the Wildlife Board on _____ and will be in effect for five years from that date, or until amended.

APPENDIX – HARVEST AND CLASSIFICATION DATA






TREND IN POST-SEASON BUCK RATIO - HERD UNIT 22
BUCKS:100 DOES
25
20
15
10
5
0
97-98
98-99
99-00
00-01
01-02
02-03
03-04
04-05
YEAR